

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4297

INFO CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1249

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJ: EXECUTIVE REQUESTS REMOVAL OF PARLIAMENTARY
IMMUNITIES OF " FRENTE AMPLIO" SENATOR

CINCSO FOR POLAD

1. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY SENT MESSAGE TO URUGUAYAN SENATE APRIL 25, FORMALLY REQUESTING SENATE ACTION TO REMOVE CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITIES OF " FRENTE AMPLIO " SENATOR ENRIQUE ERRO. PRESIDENT' S REQUEST WAS BASED UPON INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY MILITARY JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WHO CHARGE THAT ERRO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN AND HAD SUPPORTED MLN/" TUPAMARO" TERRORIST MOVEMENT.
 2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS TODAY, ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ERRO ARE BASED UPON EXTENSIVE TESTIMONY FROM CAPTURED " TUPAMAROS" TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES. EXECUTIVE' S REQUEST MUST FIRST BE REVIEWED BY SENATE' S COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND LEGISLATION WHICH WILL THEN MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BODY. A TWO- THIRDS VOTE BY THE SENATE (21 VOTES) WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE LIFTING OF ERRO' S IMMUNITIES.
 3. COMMENT: ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE AGAINST ERRO HAS BEEN LONG EXPECTED AND WAS RECEIVED WITHOUT FANFARE BY SENATE.
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PREDICTABLY, " FRENTE AMPLIO" HAS ALREADY ISSUED STATEMENT DECLARING ITS SENATORS WILL OPPOSE EXECUTIVE' S REQUEST. ERRO HIMSELF HAS VEHEMENTLY DENIED ANY CONNECTION WITH " TUPAMARO" MOVEMENT. MOST OTHER SENATORS HAVE RESERVED COMMENT PENDING AN EXAMINATION OF THE EVIDENCE TRANSMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVE

3. SOCIAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER TOLD LABATT THAT, IN 24 APRIL MEETING WITH CGT/ CFTD DELEGATION, UNION LEADERS, FAR FROM BEING AGGRESSIVE, SEEMED AT A LOSS HOW TO COPE WITH SITUATION. THEIR REQUEST THAT THE MINISTRY INTERVENE WAS MET WITH A RESTATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT POSITION THAT THE PROBLEM WAS ONE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE RENAULT MANAGEMENT AND THE UNIONS.

4. COMMENT: FACT THAT WORK WAS RESUMED AGAINST UNION ORDERS FURTHER UNDERMINED UNION CREDIBILITY AND STRENGTHENED COMPANY' S AND, INDIRECTLY GOF' S HAND. IRONICALLY, BECAUSE OF UNIONS' WEAKNESS, IT IS TOO EARLY TO CONCLUDE THAT RENAULT SITUATION IS WELL IN HAND. DISRUPTIVE POTENTIAL OF STRATEGICALLY PLACED MINORITIES PERSISTS. SOME DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS LIE AHEAD, BUT MAJORITY OF WORKERS APPEAR READY TO RESPOND RATIONALLY TO THREATS OF LOSS OF PAY AND HOPE OF MEANINGFULL NEGOTIATIONS.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
IRWIN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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